



MATPRA

MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

Find Family-Friendly Fun in the Mid-Atlantic

(U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region, August 10, 2018) -- The Mid-Atlantic Celebrates "National Family Fun Month" in August by showcasing the wide variety of attractions where families flock around the region, including museums, waterfront activities, and so much more.

Members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance ([MATPRA](#)) have compiled a list of family-friendly activities that can be found around the region. For more information on individual listings, contact the visitors bureaus listed.

DELAWARE

Delaware's Quaint Villages

Discover one of Delaware's Quaint Villages' hidden gems, at the Air Mobility Command Museum. The AMC houses over 30 different aircrafts from cargo haulers, presidential aircraft, and even a bomber. Enjoy flight simulators, various exhibits, and climb inside the Control Tower! The AMC Museum is the only museum dedicated to air refueling and airlift history and offers something for everyone! *Kent County Tourism Corporation, Danielle Jonigan, djonigan@visitdelawarevillages.com, VisitDelawareVillages.com*

MARYLAND

Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

From public harbor cruises, to sailing cruises, to family fishing excursions, to Pirate Adventures on the Chesapeake, you can create fond family memories in Annapolis by just adding water. Captain an electric boat; learn to stand up paddle board; or explore by kayak before visiting the kid-friendly Annapolis Maritime Museum. *Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Susan Seifried, sseifried@visitannapolis.org, VisitAnnapolis.org*

Baltimore

Baltimore's array of attractions and museums is enough to keep any family busy. In Baltimore, the family experience is unlike any other-see more than 20,000 species at The National Aquarium or hop aboard the USS Constellation the only Civil War-era naval vessel still afloat.

Bring the family and enjoy all the city has to offer! *Visit Baltimore*, *Kelly Nagle*, knagle@baltimore.org, Baltimore.org

Frederick County

Board an open-air truck and ride through habitats of emu, zebra, and bison at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo. During your journey, animals of all kinds will approach your vehicle giving you the opportunity to feed and photograph them. The zoo also offers walking paths surrounding 450 exotic animals. *Visit Frederick*, *Melissa Joseph Muntz*, mmuntz@fredco-md.net, VisitFrederick.org

Hagerstown - Washington County

Whether it's exploring the outdoors while looking for geocaches at a local park, stepping back in time at a museum/historic site, seeing a show/exhibit in Hagerstown's Arts & Entertainment district, or ending the day with some farm-fresh ice cream, there's never a shortage of family fun in Washington County. *Visit Hagerstown*, *Betsy DeVore*, betsy@visithagerstown.com, VisitHagerstown.com

Harford County

Harford County specializes in family fun. Bring the whole bunch to get their fill at the annual Maryland State BBQ Bash held in Bel Air in August. Head north to Applewood Farm-a wonderful children's destination complete with a petting zoo, corn maze, pedal tractors, and much more! *Visit Harford*, *Mindy Schneider*, mindy@visitharford.com, VisitHarford.com

Wicomico County

In Wicomico County, families can enjoy the free Salisbury Zoo, take in a Delmarva Shorebirds minor-league baseball game, enjoy a family show at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center, or explore the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art. The Ben's Red Swings playground and plenty of parks provide places to play. *Wicomico County*, *Wicomico County*, *Vanessa Junkin*, vjunkin@wicomicocounty.org, WicomicoTourism.org

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

From amusement parks like Hersheypark, Knoebels, and Sesame Place to children's attractions like the Please Touch Museum, Crayola Experience, and Carnegie Science Center, Pennsylvania is packed with family fun for all generations! *Pennsylvania Tourism Office*, *Natalie Buyny*, nbuyny@tierneyagency.com, VisitPA.com

Butler County

Moraine State Park has a wide-variety of experiences for the whole family. The options range from SurfSUP's paddleboarding eco-tours to a seven-mile bike trail. Your family can also spend

the day on a rented pontoon boat, kayak or canoe, or just relax and swim at the beach. *Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau, Tiffany Hernandez, tiffany@visitbutlercounty.com, VisitButlerCounty.com*

Central Pennsylvania

Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park is the only all-water cavern and has been a favorite of multiple generations. Stopping into the Penn State Creamery, where Ben & Jerry's learned the trade, is a must-see that's even better when combined with a stroll in the scenic Penn State Arboretum. *Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andy Rupert, andy@visitpennstate.org, VisitPennState.org*

Chester County

Bring the family to the Brandywine Valley. Longwood Gardens' Children's Garden is a wonderland filled with imaginative, one-of-a-kind handcrafted elements. At the American Helicopter Museum, families can "take off" for a one-of-a-kind adventure. The Herr's Snack Factory tour is a must-see and a must-taste! *Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau, Nina Kelly, nina@brandywinevalley.com, BrandywineValley.com*

Endless Mountains

Camping is a favorite family vacation and the Endless Mountains are the ideal destination to enjoy the great outdoors! From campgrounds to park resources, sites across three counties await! Spend a day along rivers, lakes, or trails then enjoy dinner by campfire. Create memories to last a lifetime! *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, sales@endlessmountains.org, EndlessMountains.org*

Erie

It's a beautiful day in Erie, PA! Bring the family to Waldameer Amusement Park & Water World, one of the oldest parks in the country. The park offers rides, slides, the award-winning "Ravine Flyer II" coaster, midway games, food, and picnic pavilions as well as free parking and admission. *VisitErie, Christine Temple, cvb1@visiterie.com, VisitErie.com*

Franklin County

The Chambersburg Aquatic Center is a great place for the whole family. This brand-new aquatic center features a "sprayground" with interactive play equipment, a children's pool, activity pool with lazy river, lap pool, and three waterslides. Also enjoy the picnic areas and new nine-hole miniature golf course. *Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Lauren Cappuccio, lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com, ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com*

Lancaster County

Enjoy three family faves in Lancaster County: Strasburg Rail Road, a 45-minute ride through Paradise on America's oldest short-line railroad; the Amazing Maize Maze and 50 other

activities at Cherry Crest Adventure Farm; and Dutch Wonderland children's amusement park, home to "Merlin's Mayhem," a great suspended roller coaster. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff, jcliff@discoverlancaster.com, DiscoverLancaster.com*

Laurel Highlands

Classic family fun awaits you in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. Whether you splash around at Idlewild and Soak Zone, play mini golf in an underground cave, catch a movie at a vintage drive-in theatre, or cheer on stock-car racing at Jennerstown Speedway, you'll make amazing family memories in the Laurel Highlands. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Anna Weltz, aweltz@laurelhighlands.org, LaurelHighlands.org*

Lehigh Valley

Families flock to Lehigh Valley to discover endless fun. Explore the magic of color at Crayola Experience, home to 25+ interactive exhibits designed to inspire creativity in all ages. Ride the Josiah White II, a mule-drawn canal boat. Or, speed down water slides & roller coasters at Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com, DiscoverLehighValley.com*

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh is KidsBURGH. With attractions that educate and entertain, Pittsburgh is great for family adventures. On a hot summer day, ride a refreshing water ride at Kennywood. Children can see fluttering butterflies up-close at Phipps Conservatory. For those seeking fun learning opportunities, visit one of Carnegie Science Center's interactive exhibits. *VisitPITTSBURGH, Kristin Wenger, kristin.wenger@visitpittsburgh.com, VisitPittsburgh.com*

Pocono Mountains

The Poconos have molded into the ideal four-season family vacation spot; snow tubing and ski lessons in the winter, treetop courses and NASCAR races in the summer. Year-round, families enjoy multiple indoor water parks. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Kelly Shannon, kshannon@poconos.org, PoconoMountains.com*

Potter County - Tioga County

Potter County attractions will inspire a youngster's imagination! Spend the morning learning to "catch the big one" at Rainbow Paradise Fishing Park. In the afternoon, discover fascinating Coudersport Ice Mine before winding down to observe Dark Skies at Cherry Springs State Park where heavens are best viewed with the naked eye. *Visit Potter-Tioga, Morgan Christopher, morgan@visitpottertioga.com, VisitPotterTioga.com*

VIRGINIA

Alexandria

Families visiting Alexandria feel like they're stepping into Harry Potter's world at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, a historic apothecary where Martha Washington shopped. Discover real-life ingredients used throughout the 1800s that were also used as "potion" ingredients in the Harry Potter series, including dragon's blood and mandrake root. Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman, APR, lsPELLMAN@visITalexVA.com, VisitAlexandriaVA.com

Fairfax County

From hands-on exhibits at George Washington's Mount Vernon to flight simulators and iconic aircraft at Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, families will revel in experiences spanning from 18th century to outer space. Nature lovers can play at Great Falls National Park and zipline through the trees at Go Ape! Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, amorris@fxva.com, FXVA.com

Hampton

Its more than 100 hands-on-exhibits make Hampton's Virginia Air & Space Center a perennial favorite for families. The simulators provide hours of fun for youngsters, while learners of all ages can take in the history and technology of the displays. The IMAX films are a hit with everyone. Hampton Convention and Visitor Bureau, Elizabeth Severs, elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com, VisitHampton.com

Lynchburg

This is Lynchburg. Ski, snowboard or tube year-round at Snowflex Centre! With graduated slopes, this high-performance playground is the first in the U.S. Get-your-play-on at our National Medal winning Amazement Square Children's Museum. Start a rock band, paint the walls, or climb the building, it's hands-on fun for all. Lynchburg Office of Economic Development & Tourism, Krista Boothby, krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov, LynchburgVirginia.org

Prince William County

From summer concert series to Halloween parties and history lessons, the National Museum of the Marine Corps has it all. Experience the past, present, and future of Marines told from their point of view as you experience a unique museum that comes alive with casting moldings, weaponry, and artwork. Prince William County Office of Tourism, Nicole Warner, nwarner@pwcgov.org, VisitPWC.com

Shenandoah County

Beat the heat in an underground landscape. At a constant 56°F, the beauty and wonders of Shenandoah Caverns is a family experience like no other. Check out Shenandoah County's beautiful scenery below the surface and learn the story of two young boys who discovered it over a hundred years ago. Shenandoah County Tourism, Jenna French, jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us, VisitShenandoahCounty.com

Virginia's Blue Ridge

Families make unforgettable memories in the majestic mountains of America's East Coast Mountain Biking Capital without breaking the bank. Travel to Virginia's Blue Ridge to experience the remarkable 100-foot neon Roanoke Star and Overlook, enjoy free admission to the Taubman Museum of Art, then get tilted at Roanoke's Pinball Museum. *Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Taylor Spellman, tspellman@visitvbr.com, VisitVBR.com*

WEST VIRGINIA

Hampshire County

Multiple generations enjoy all-inclusive vacations at Capon Springs & Farms, "a family camp" in the foothills of the Alleghenies. Guests return year after year to experience this historic hidden gem with family style meals, old fashioned activities, and a feeling of coming home. Open April through November. *Hampshire County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Jonathan Bellingham, jonathan@caponsprings.net, ComeToHampshire.com*

Pocahontas County

Find family fun for everyone in Nature's Mountain Playground. Hop aboard one of many steam-operated engines with Mountain Rail Adventures and climb to Bald Knob, 4,843 feet in elevation. Play astronomer for the day at the Green Bank Observatory. Head to the Science Center or take a tour to see the world's largest steerable telescope. *Pocahontas County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Chelsea Walker, cwalker@pocahontascountywv.com, NaturesMtnPlayground.com*

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About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit www.matpra.org.

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